

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy and Nursery

Vision

At the heart of our community, we serve to embrace lifelong learning through our Christian foundations. We step forward with love in our hearts, peace in our actions and hope in our aspirations. We enable all to flourish in our diversity of faith and belief, be ambitious and be our unique selves.

St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy and Nursery is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- The Christian vision is embedded and understood by pupils and adults at St Mary's. It underpins the decisions and actions of leaders, shaping a culture in which people flourish.
- Collective worship enables members of the school community to think deeply and grow spiritually. This is because it is planned and rooted in the school's Christian vision.
- A common language enables the effective expression of spiritual flourishing. As a result, the spiritual development of pupils and adults' is enriched.
- Members of this loving school family flourish because they are respected, included, and valued. This culture of belonging nurtures wellbeing and results in strong, positive relationships across the school.
- Support from the trust enhances the school's work. This ensures leaders are well-equipped to embed the vision and create a culture for flourishing.

Development Points

- Governors should implement formal monitoring of the impact of the vision. This is to enable them to evaluate how the vision is shaping St Mary's work as a Church school.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The vision of St Mary's is deeply embedded and shapes its life. Rich in cultural and religious diversity, the school is a place where pupils and adults are valued and welcomed. The core values of love, hope and peace are the golden threads through which the vision is expressed. These guide decisions and relationships. From the earliest years, nursery pupils explore the school's values through play and stories. This approach ensures that they develop a strong moral and spiritual foundation, which positively influences their behaviour and attitudes. Older pupils confidently articulate what the vision means to them, often linking it to biblical teaching. Their understanding ensures that the values are central to their lives at St Mary's. Leaders know the community well and are ambitious for pupils. The vision underpins their work in tackling barriers and challenges. Conversations with families about attendance are framed around the belief that every child is valued and has a hopeful future. This has resulted in improved attendance and greater engagement. Governors are committed to enabling the flourishing of pupils and adults. However, their formal monitoring of the vision's impact is not established.

Vision and Curriculum

The carefully crafted curriculum is shaped by the vision. It is aspirational for pupils, enabling them to grow in confidence as learners who recognise and value their gifts. To promote inclusion, British Sign Language is taught instead of a modern foreign language. The English curriculum utilises rich, diverse texts to foster an appreciation of diversity. As a result, pupils, including those considered vulnerable, are valued and thrive in their learning. There is a strong focus on sport and wellbeing, complemented by a broad range of wider curriculum opportunities. Together, these experiences build confidence and nurture talents, so that pupils flourish beyond the classroom. Trust support enhances curriculum design, providing expertise that strengthens provision for all. Spiritual development is embedded through the language of 'ows, wows and now's'. Pupils use these words confidently to reflect on the joys and challenges of their experiences. One pupil explained, 'I am amazed when I have wows, learn from my ows and think about my now's.'

Worship and Spirituality

Collective worship significantly impacts pupils' spiritual development and sense of belonging. Daily acts of worship are Christian in nature, reflect the school's context, and create an inclusive experience. Leaders work closely with the church and with faith communities to ensure worship reflects its diversity. This includes incorporating multi-faith prayers led by pupils. This ensures that worship is inclusive of pupils and adults across a range of faith traditions. Worship themes are carefully planned and rooted in the school's vision, offering time for stillness and reflection. Staff and pupils value this quiet space because it helps them pause and think deeply. Reflection books show pupils responding meaningfully to worship, often linking their reflections to their own lives. As a result, worship strengthens spiritual development and fosters a sense of belonging and respect across the school. Strong partnerships with the local church enrich worship through seasonal celebrations and shared experiences. This deepens pupils' spiritual awareness and understanding of Christian traditions and values.

Vision and School Culture

The school's vision nurtures a culture where relationships are strong; pupils and staff experience a deep sense of belonging. Trust and school leaders prioritise wellbeing of staff alongside professional growth, offering emotional support and listening carefully to feedback about workload. This commitment from leaders means staff are motivated to give their best, often going the extra mile for pupils and families. Leaders and staff know pupils personally, ensuring they are recognised, loved and celebrated. Pupils speak with maturity about resolving disagreements, showing that respect and reconciliation are embedded in daily life together. Parents appreciate practical support, including workshops that help them support learning at home. The school provides a place of sanctuary for families, creating an environment where they are accepted and valued. Bespoke pastoral support ensures individual needs are met. As a result, relationships across the school are positive, enabling adults and pupils to flourish and live well together.



Vision, Justice and Responsibility

At St Mary's, the values of love, peace and hope are lived out through a deep commitment to justice. Pupils articulate a strong sense of right and wrong and speak confidently about fairness and equality. They are passionate about making a difference both locally and globally. This is seen through the work of the school council. They recently organised a sponsorship event to enable them to buy additional playground equipment. Such initiatives strengthen pupils' understanding of how collective action can bring lasting change in their school. Through a range of events and projects, staff and pupils serve their wider community. As a result, pupils develop a strong sense of responsibility. They see advocacy as part of their living well together and as a way of bringing hope to others. Justice is intentionally woven through the curriculum. This gives pupils opportunities to explore ethical issues and learn to challenge injustice. Engagement with a range of organisations supports the school in developing pupils' understanding of race and culture. Consequently, they have a strong awareness of their own identity and value diversity within the community.

Religious Education

Pupils articulate with confidence why they learn religious education (RE) and recognise its importance in helping them understand faith and beliefs. This is because the curriculum is well balanced. It gives pupils opportunities to explore Christianity alongside a range of other religions and worldviews. This breadth enables them to develop respect and understanding. RE provides space for pupils to tell their own story and express themselves in ways meaningful to them. As a result, they grow in self-love and value their own identity. Monitoring the effectiveness of the curriculum ensures that pupils are knowing more and remembering more. They recall learning in depth and with confidence. Moderation opportunities provided by the trust further strengthen the curriculum, ensuring consistency and depth. Leaders are intentional in shaping this so that it effectively meets the needs of pupils. The RE leader contributes to this process through sharing new initiatives and ideas. Through this carefully shaped provision, pupils flourish as reflective individuals. They articulate their own perspectives and those of others thoughtfully and with deep respect.

Information

Address	Hamstead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B20 2RW		
Date	11 November 2025	URN	139041
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	368
Diocese	Birmingham		
MAT	Fioretti Trust		
MAT Chair	Philip Wood		
Headteacher	Jo Booker		
Chair of Governors	Richard Paton-Devine		
Inspector	Emma Darragh		